25. *Public Works.*—The allotment for ordinary Public Works expenditure for the next year including Establishment charges and Tools and Plant is Rs 32·48 lakhs, as against the current year's budget grant of Rs 30·56 lakhs. When the estimated expenditure on Capital works and the expenditure met out of the Irrigation and Road Development Funds and the Reproductive Works executed by the Electrical Department are also taken into account, the budget grant for the next year for works of public utility would amount to Rs 62·86 lakhs, and is the highest on record. Full details of the works in progress and new works are given in the Appendices to the budget estimates.

The separate Irrigation Division sanctioned during the current year has been formed and an Irrigation Fund created with an initial deposit of Bh. Rs 5 lakhs. It is proposed to draw a sum of Rs ·68 of a lakh from the Fund for supplementing the budget grant of Rs 2 lakhs from the General Revenues for Protective Irrigation works next year, the unspent balance, if any, at the close of the year being added on to the Fund to be drawn upon in future years. With the creation of a separate Irrigation Division, it is hoped that it would be possible for the department to bestow greater attention to the improvement of the several Protective Irrigation works lying scattered throughout the State. Provision has also been made for the continuance of the temporary staff for completing the investigation of a Drainage Scheme for the Trivandrum town and for the Town Planning Scheme.

26. *Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.*—The expected increase is mainly under superannuation and retired allowances due to the anticipated increase in the number of retirements.

27. *The Public Service Recruitment Committee* appointed to enquire into and report on the question of placing the system of recruitment to Public Service on a definite basis, have submitted their report and it is engaging the attention of Government.

28. *The Retrenchment Committee* in their report, made proposals for the standardization of salaries of officers of the State involving an average saving in expenditure to the extent of Rs 4·15 lakhs per annum. The Special Officer deputed during the current year for the standardisation of salaries has submitted proposals which would result in an average saving of about Rs 4·35 lakhs. The proposals are under consideration.

29. *Travancore State Land Mortgage Bank.*—It is expected that loans to the extent of Rs 5·80 lakhs would be sanctioned by the Bank by the close of the current year. For the next year, a sum of Rs 3 lakhs has been provided in the budget under "Debt

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[Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai.]

Heads". The amounts collected from the Bank's debtors are also being utilised for the grant of further loans. The rate of interest charged on the prior encumbrances, for the clearance of which the Bank has granted loans, is in most cases 12 per cent. per annum. There have also been a few cases in which the rate of interest was 15 per cent. The Bank is now charging an interest of 7½ per cent. per annum on the advances made by it. It is, however, proposed to reduce the rate of interest to 6½ per cent. per annum with effect from 1st Chingam next. The reduced rate will be applicable to the loans granted prior to that date also, provided, however, that the interest accrued up to that date will be calculated at the present rate of 7½ per cent.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE.

30. *Quilon-Trivandrum Railway.*—A small provision of Rs ·06 of a lakh is made for replacing the existing gravel ballast with granite stone ballast over a distance of 5 miles on the line.

31. *Chackai-Tampanoor Extension.*—An allotment of Rs ·24 of a lakh is provided for watering arrangements at Trivandrum Central, for the construction of quarters and for establishment and other charges, as detailed in Appendix H.

32. *The Willingdon Water Works.*—The expenditure to the end of the current year is estimated at Rs 47·83 lakhs and a sum of Rs 3·34 lakhs is proposed for the next year including Establishment charges. The dam at Aruvikara has been raised to its full height and water is now drawn into the main supply line direct from the impounding reservoir. The settling tank, the filter house and the low level service reservoirs are in full working order and the high level service reservoir is in course of construction.

The work of extending the Water mains to the Pattom Palace included in the second stage of the scheme has been completed. A sum of Rs 2 lakhs has been provided in the next year's budget for further works in the second stage.

A sum of Rs 1·25 lakhs has been estimated as receipts from the scheme next year and Rs ·99 of a lakh has been provided for working expenses. The rules for the working of the scheme will be issued soon.

33. *Construction of a bridge at Neriamangalam across the Periyar.*—Out of the provision of Rs 2·07 lakhs in the current year's budget, Rs 1·25 lakhs only is expected to be spent during the year. The allotment proposed for the next year is Rs 1·75 lakhs.

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